

Message Text

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EXDIS

REQUEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO APPROPRIATE ADDRESSEES

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MNUC
SUBJECT: ERW: COMMENTS ON PROPOSED STATEMENT AND
CONSULTATION SCENARIO

REF: (A) STATE 067379, (B) STATE 065763, (C) USNATO 2424,
(D) BRUSSELS 5041

1. WE WELCOME DECISION (REF A) TO GO AHEAD WITH
MEETINGS ON MARCH 20 AND 22. TIMING IS CRITICAL,
AND WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COMPLETE
ERW CONSULTATIONS BEFORE THE EASTER HOLIDAY PERIOD
(WHICH BEGINS COB MARCH 23) AND TO INSURE THAT
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ERW ISSUE, INCLUDING THE CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW
PERIOD, WILL NOT STILL BE ON THE AGENDA AT THE
TIME OF THE SSOD AND THE SUMMIT.

2. TO PREPARE FOR THE MARCH 20 MEETING, WE
BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL TO CIRCULATE A PROPOSED
SUMMING UP STATEMENT IMMEDIATELY TO ALL ALLIES.

THE DUTCH, DANES, NORWEGIANS, ITALIANS AND CANADIANS HAVE BEEN AFTER US HERE PERSISTENTLY FOR US VIEWS ON THE DESIRED OUTCOME OF THE ERW CONSULTATIONS AND HAVE URGED THE US TO CIRCULATE A DRAFT SUMMARY STATEMENT FOR STUDY. IF WE WANT A FOCUSED DISCUSSION AT THE MARCH 20 MEETING, ALLIED GOVERNMENTS MUST HAVE A DOCUMENT TO CONSIDER PRIOR TO THAT DATE. WHILE GIVING THEM A DRAFT SUMMING UP STATEMENT WILL NOT PREVENT COUNTER-PROPOSALS, IT SHOULD HELP TO HEAD OFF LIKELY INITIATIVES FROM THE SMALLER ALLIES FOR A JOINT "NATO DRAFTING SESSION" AND HELP TO PREVENT THEM FROM DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM A SUMMING UP ON WHICH THEY WERE NOT CONSULTED.

3. ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE SUMMING UP, WE DO NOT THINK SMALLER ALLIES WILL BE ABLE TO ACCEPT LANGUAGE SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED IN PARA 3 REF B, STATING THAT "THE ALLIANCE" OR "THE ALLIES" AGREED ON DEPLOYMENT. CLEARLY, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF WE COULD GET A STATEMENT EMPLOYING TERM SUCH AS "THE ALLIANCE" OR "THE ALLIES" BUT THIS IS, FRANKLY, A NON-STARTER. IF WE WANT GENERAL ACCEPTANCE WE HAD BETTER START WITH A PHRASE ON THIS CRUCIAL ISSUE THAT SMALLER ALLIES MIGHT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT. IN ADDITION,
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THE FRENCH ARE NOT PARTICIPATING BUT MIGHT EASILY TAKE PUBLIC EXCEPTION TO SUCH LANGUAGE.

4. ACCORDINGLY, IN VIEW OF DUTCH, BELGIAN AND SCANDANAVIAN CONCERNS, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THE BOTTOM LINE OF THE SUMMATION SHOULD BE TO THE EFFECT THAT "IT WAS THE SENSE OF THE MEETING THAT," IF THE SOVIET UNION DID NOT ACCEPT THE US PROPOSAL TO HALT DEPLOYMENT OF THE SS-20 AND BEGIN SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS, "THE US AND OTHER ALLIES" WOULD PROCEED WITH DEPLOYMENT OF THE ERW IN THE EUROPEAN THEATER...

5. WE BELIEVE THE US GOAL, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MARCH 20/22 MEETINGS, SHOULD BE TO OBTAIN ALLIED ACCEPTANCE OF A SINGLE AGREED STATEMENT. THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, WE BELIEVE, IS:

. --TO ATTEMPT TO ACCOMMODATE, IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE STATEMENT, THE EXISTING CONFLICTING POSITIONS ON DEPLOYMENT, WITHOUT GIVING UP THE ESSENTIAL

POINTS WE WANT, AND

. --TO CONSULT ON ADDITIONAL NATIONAL STATEMENTS,
OR RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS, THAT SOME ALLIES MAY
FEEL OBLIGED TO MAKE.

WE THUS THINK IT WOULD ALSO BE DESIRABLE FOR THE
US TO PROVIDE THE ALLIES IN ADVANCE OF THE MARCH 20
MEETING ANY INTENDED US NATIONAL STATEMENT AND TO
REQUEST IN ADVANCE ANY STATEMENTS PLANNED BY ALLIES.

6. IN SUM, WE BELIEVE SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF
THIS PHASE OF ERW CONSULTATIONS IS WITHIN OUR
GRASP, AND WE CAN ACHIEVE OUR BASIC AIMS
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IF WE ARE FLEXIBLE ON THE WORDS USED TO LINK
THE ALLIES TO DEPLOYMENT AND ON POSSIBLE NATIONAL
STATEMENTS. IN ITS DRIVE TOWARDS THIS GOAL,
THE US MUST, HOWEVER, BE VERY FIRM ON REQUIRING
MAXIMUM ALLIED SUPPORT FOR A SINGLE STATEMENT

ENDORING DEPLOYMENT "BY THE US AND OTHER ALLIES".
WE MUST ALSO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE BELGIANS, DUTCH
AND OTHERS THAT THE US CANNOT ACCEPT LANGUAGE
REFLECTING INDIVIDUAL POSITIONS IN THE SUMMARY
STATEMENT. IN PARTICULAR, WE SHOULD STRONGLY
RESIST ANY ATTEMPT BY BELGIANS (REF D) OR OTHERS
TO TAKE A STAND NOW IN OPPOSITION TO DEPLOYMENT
EVEN WITH ARMS CONTROL LINK. BENNETT
UNQUOTE VANCE

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